

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

KOEN H.J. VRIELINK

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Serial No.

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Ex.

Title: METHODS OF AND DEVICES FOR TRANSMITTING AND REPRODUCING
AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO INFORMATION CONSISTING OF PRIMARY
PROGRAMS AND COMMERCIALS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (amended) A method of reproducing one of: audio and video
information transmitted by means of a method of transmitting one
of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided
into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and
secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence (P1,
C1, P2, C2, ...), and the tertiary programs (C1*, ...) are
transmitted parallel to these programs and received by means of a

method of receiving one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is transmitted by means of a method according to claim 1, wherein the information is received, and wherein the received information is differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, which reproducing method switches between the following modes:

(a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (P1, C1, P2) are reproduced as transmitted;

(b) a "pause mode" that can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P2') is interrupted and tertiary programs (C1*, C2*) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P2'', P3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and

(c) a "resume mode" that can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which "resume mode" the application and storage of received primary programs (P3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P2'', P3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being retrieved from buffer while any interposed secondary programs (C2, C3) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to the "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence.

4. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the tertiary programs (C1*, C2*, ...) are transmitted expanded in time, are stored in a memory (4), and are reproduced from this memory during the "pause mode".

5. (amended) A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the secondary programs (C2, C3, ...) are not stored in the buffer.

6. (amended) A method according to claim 3, characterized in that parts of the buffer (5) and/or memory (4) are designated as free as soon as the programs stored therein have been reproduced.

7. (amended) A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the transition from the "pause mode" to the "resume mode" is delayed until the currently reproduced tertiary program ends.

8. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the transmission of the primary, secondary, and tertiary programs originates from a recording device like a VCR, or from the broadcast by a radio transmitter.

9. (amended) A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the secondary and tertiary programs (C1, ..., C1*, ...) comprise commercials.

12. (amended) A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the transmission of the primary and secondary information originates from a recording device like a VCR, or from the broadcasting of a radio transmitter.

13. (amended) A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the secondary information comprises commercials.

14. (amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the audio and/or video information is transmitted according to a method of transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence (P1, C1, P2, C2, ...), and the tertiary programs (C1*, ...) are transmitted parallel to these programs and that the secondary information consists of one of: secondary and tertiary programs.

15. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the audio and/or video information is digitally coded.

19. (amended) A device according to claim 17, wherein it is adapted to carry out a method according to a method of reproducing

one of: audio and video information transmitted by means of a method of transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence (P1, C1, P2, C2, ...), and the tertiary programs (C1*, ...) are transmitted parallel to these programs and received by means of a method of receiving one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is transmitted by means of a method according to claim 1, wherein the information is received, and wherein the received information is differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, which reproducing method switches between the following modes:

(a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (P1, C1, P2) are reproduced as transmitted;

(b) a "pause mode" that can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P2') is interrupted and tertiary programs (C1*, C2*) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P2'', P3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and

(c) a "resume mode" that can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which "resume mode" the application and storage of received primary programs (P3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P2'', P3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being

retrieved from buffer while any interposed secondary programs (C2, C3) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to the "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence.

22. (amended) A device according to claim 20 wherein said device is adapted to carry out a method according to a method of reproducing audio and/or video information transmitted in parallel in a plurality of channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information, wherein the user can select one of the channels and the primary information of the selected channel is reproduced, the method including an "information mode", which is initiated each time the user has changed the selected channel and which is terminated a given period of time after initiation, the secondary information being reproduced parallel to or instead of the primary information during the information mode.

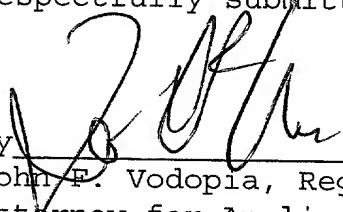
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the claims were made solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple dependent form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of

patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights he may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicant furthermore reserves his right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX

3. (amended) A method of reproducing one of: audio and and/or video information transmitted by means of a method of transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence (P1, C1, P2, C2, ...), and the tertiary programs (C1*, ...) are transmitted parallel to these programs ~~according to claim 1~~ and received by means of a method of receiving one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is transmitted by means of a method according to claim 1, wherein the information is received, and wherein the received information is differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary programs ~~according to claim 2,~~ which reproducing method switches between the following modes:

(a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (P1, C1, P2) are reproduced as transmitted;

(b) a "pause mode" that can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P2') is interrupted and tertiary programs (C1*, C2*) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P2'', P3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and

(c) a "resume mode" that can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which "resume mode" the application and storage of

received primary programs (P3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P2'', P3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being retrieved from buffer while any interposed secondary programs (C2, C3) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to the "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence.

4. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that the tertiary programs (C1*, C2*, ...) are transmitted expanded in time, are stored in a memory (4), and are reproduced from this memory during the "pause mode".

5. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 3 to 4~~claim 3, characterized in that the secondary programs (C2, C3, ...) are not stored in the buffer.

6. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 3 to 5~~claim 3, characterized in that parts of the buffer (5) and/or memory (4) are designated as free as soon as the programs stored therein have been reproduced.

7. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 3 to 6~~claim 3, characterized in that the transition from the "pause mode" to the "resume mode" is delayed until the currently reproduced tertiary program ends.

8. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the transmission of the primary, secondary, and tertiary programs originates from a recording device like a VCR, or from the broadcast by a radio transmitter.

9. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 2, characterized in that the secondary and tertiary programs (C1, ..., C1*, ...) comprise commercials.

12. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 10 to 11~~claim 10, characterized in that the transmission of the primary and secondary information originates from a recording device like a VCR, or from the broadcasting of a radio transmitter.

13. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of claims 10 to 12~~claim 10, characterized in that the secondary information comprises commercials.

14. (amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~one or more~~
~~of the claims 10 to 13, characterized in that the audio and/or~~
video information is transmitted according to a method of
transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the
information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary
programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an
alternating sequence (P1, C1, P2, C2, ...), and the tertiary
programs (C1*, ...) are transmitted parallel to these programs
~~claim 1~~ and that the secondary information consists of one of:
~~secondary and/or~~ and tertiary programs.

15. (amended) A method according to ~~one or more of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the audio and/or video
information is digitally coded.

19. (amended) A device according to claim 17, wherein ~~or 18~~,
~~characterized in that it is adapted to carry out a method according~~
to a method of reproducing one of: audio and video information
transmitted by means of a method of transmitting one of: audio and
video information, wherein the information is divided into primary,
secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs
are transmitted in an alternating sequence (P1, C1, P2, C2, ...),
and the tertiary programs (C1*, ...) are transmitted parallel to
these programs and received by means of a method of receiving one

of: audio and video information, wherein the information is transmitted by means of a method according to claim 1, wherein the information is received, and wherein the received information is differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, which reproducing method switches between the following modes:

(a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (P1, C1, P2) are reproduced as transmitted;

(b) a "pause mode" that can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P2') is interrupted and tertiary programs (C1*, C2*) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P2'', P3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and

(c) a "resume mode" that can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which "resume mode" the application and storage of received primary programs (P3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P2'', P3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being retrieved from buffer while any interposed secondary programs (C2, C3) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to the "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence~~one of the claims 3 to 9.~~

22. (amended) A device, according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, characterized ~~in that it~~ wherein said device is adapted to carry out a method according to a method of reproducing audio and/or video information transmitted in parallel in a plurality of channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information, wherein the user can select one of the channels and the primary information of the selected channel is reproduced, the method including an "information mode", which is initiated each time the user has changed the selected channel and which is terminated a given period of time after initiation, the secondary information being reproduced parallel to or instead of the primary information during the information mode ~~one of the claims 10 to 14.~~